This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): A force detecting capacitive sensor comprising a plurality of sets of at least two electrodes integral with a transparency product, said electrodes having mutual capacitance affected by force acting against the transparency product, wherein said plurality is configured for discriminating different vehicle crash characteristics.

Claim 12 (previously added): The sensor of claim 11 wherein at least two of said at least two electrodes are parallel with one another.

Claim 13 (previously added): The sensor of claim 11 wherein at least two of said at least two electrodes are non-parallel with one another.

Claim 14 (previously added): The sensor of claim 11 wherein at least one of said at least two electrodes comprises a conductive coating integral with the transparency product.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously added): The sensor of claim 15 further comprising a vehicle occupant protection system comprised of at least one occupant restraint device which operates in conjunction with said sensor.

Claim 17 (previously added): The sensor of claim 11 wherein said sensor distinguishes between a visibility condition and an object in proximity to the transparency product based on said sensor response.

Claim 18 (previously added): The sensor of claim 17 further comprising a vehicle occupant protection system that operates in conjunction with said sensor upon detecting an object in proximity to the transparency product.

Claim 19 (previously added): The sensor of claim 17 further comprising means for initiating a response to modify a detected visibility condition.

Claims 20- 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (new): A capacitive sensor comprising at least two electrodes integral with a transparency product, said electrodes having mutual capacitance affected by force acting against the transparency product, wherein said sensor distinguishes between a visibility condition and an object in proximity to the transparency product based on said sensor response.

Claim 33 (new): The sensor of claim 32 further comprising a vehicle occupant protection system that operates in conjunction with said sensor upon detecting an object in proximity to the transparency product.

Claim 34 (new): The sensor of claim 32 further comprising means for initiating a response to modify a detected visibility condition.

Claim 35 (new): A method of employing a force detecting capacitive sensor, the method comprising the steps of:

employing a plurality of sets of at least two electrodes integral with a transparency product, the electrodes having mutual capacitance affected by force acting against the transparency product; and

configuring the plurality for discriminating different vehicle crash characteristics.

Claim 36 (new): The method of claim 35 wherein in the employing step at least two of the at least two electrodes are parallel with one another.

Claim 37 (new): The method of claim 35 wherein in the employing step at least two of the at least two electrodes are non-parallel with one another.

Claim 38 (new): The method of claim 35 wherein in the employing step at least one of the at least two electrodes comprises a conductive coating integral with the transparency product.

Claim 39 (new): The method of claim 38 further comprising the step of incorporating the sensor within a vehicle occupant protection system comprised of at least one occupant restraint device which operates in conjunction with the sensor.

Claim 40 (new): The method of claim 35 additionally comprising the step of employing the sensor to distinguish between a visibility condition and an object in proximity to the transparency product based on the sensor response.

Claim 41 (new): The method of claim 40 further comprising the step of incorporating the sensor within a vehicle occupant protection system that operates in conjunction with the sensor upon detecting an object in proximity to the transparency product.

Claim 42 (new): The method of claim 40 further comprising the step of initiating a response to modify a detected visibility condition.

Claim 43 (new): A method of employing a force detecting capacitive sensor, the method comprising the steps of:

employing at least two electrodes integral with a transparency product, the electrodes having mutual capacitance affected by force acting against the transparency product; and

distinguishing between a visibility condition and an object in proximity to the transparency product based on the sensor response.

Claim 44 (new): The sensor of claim 43 further comprising the step of incorporating the sensor within a vehicle occupant protection system that operates in conjunction with the sensor upon detecting an object in proximity to the transparency product.

Claim 45 (new): The sensor of claim 43 further comprising the step of initiating a response to modify a detected visibility condition.